

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 18, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 12-14, 16-17, 25-26, 28-30, 32-33, 37, 39-40, 43-45, 47-48, and 51-54 are canceled. Claims 1, 5, 11, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 5, 8-11, 15, 18-24, 27, 31, 34-36, 38, 41-42, 46, 49-50 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 5, 11, and 15 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed May 18, 2005, claim 11 was objected to because the phrase "polling for transmission of an acknowledgement message when the count value exceeds the predetermined threshold value" is not consistent with the phrase used on page 16 of the remarks. Independent claim 11 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to be consistent with the language in the remarks. In view of the amendments, the objection should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as lacking proper antecedent basis for "said count value". Independent claims 1 and 5 have each been amended to recite --generating a count value-- to provide proper antecedent basis for "said count value", in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. In view of the amendments, the rejection of claims 1 and 5 as indefinite should now be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as lacking proper antecedent basis for "said count value". However, each of claims 11 and 15 recite that the counting unit outputs "a count value", thereby providing proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, should now be withdrawn.

Claims 51-54 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the finding of allowable subject matter, each of independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 15 has been rewritten to include the limitations of 51-54, respectively. Since each of the independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 15 has been rewritten to include allowable subject matter, claims 1, 5, 11, and 15 should now be allowable.

Dependent claims 8-10, 18-24, 27, 31, 34-36, 38, 41-42, 46, and 49-50, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 15, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1, 5, 11, and 15, as well as for the additional limitations contained therein.

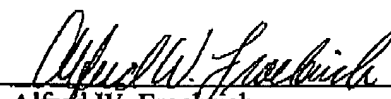
In view of the above remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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